

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

9156 '01 FEB -1 10:32
January 23, 2001

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Administrator,

We are writing to support the petition, submitted by Farm Sanctuary, that prohibits the slaughter of downed animals. We strongly believe that animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

The reasons for such a stance are numerous and common sensical. First, the sale of such animals, often referred to as "downed animals," poses an unnecessary risk to human health, because they are at an increased risk for bacterial contamination. Furthermore, there is evidence that some downed animals may be stricken with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, also known as "Mad Cow Disease." This disease has been linked to a fatal human illness: Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.


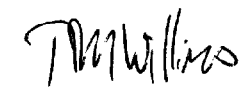


Secondly, downed animals cannot be taken "humanely" to slaughter. Typically, they are pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. These methods cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments. The pain they experience must be beyond imagining.

Third, industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals have not been treated properly or may have been abused. Prohibiting the slaughter of downed animals for sale to the public, then, will provide an incentive for the livestock industry to prevent downed animals by providing for the proper care of livestock.

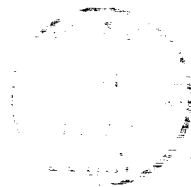
Finally, downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered. Prohibiting their slaughter will not cause undue economic hardship on the livestock industry. In fact, the potential benefit to public health is far outweighed by any economic factors.

Thank you for taking the time to seriously consider our concerns. We look forward to receiving your response and learning what actions you will take.

Sincerely,

			
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